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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH ADMINISTRATION
BUREAU OF ENTOMOLOGY AND PLANT QUARANTINE
WASHINGTON 25, D. C.

In cooperation with State, Federal and Other Agencies

COTTON INSECT CONDITIONS FOR WEEK ENDING AUGUST 6, 1948
(Twelfth Cotton Insect Survey Report for 1948)

No reports of shortages of insecticides for cotton insect control.

Cotton leafworms were found in Lake County, Florida making a total of three counties reported infested in Florida. The crop is so far advanced that there is little likelihood of damage or need for control. Cotton leafworms have been previously reported from eight counties in Texas. This is no increase for the last two weeks.

The boll weevil has reached its peak in most areas and is now causing damage to green bolls. Much cotton can be saved by dusting with insecticides to protect bolls until danger of boll injury by weevils is passed.

Excerpts relating to cotton and cotton insects taken from Weekly Cotton Weather Bulletin issued by the Weather Bureau, U. S. Department of Commerce, New Orleans, Louisiana, for week ending August 3, 1948:

TEXAS: Cotton progress very good, opening hastened south with harvest full swing, picking progressing rapidly southeast with some fields being plowed lower Rio Grande Valley, insect infestation persists north-central despite hot weather, progress excellent west and northwest with very little insect damage.

OKLAHOMA: Cotton progress good, much fruiting heavily, weather favorable for weevil activity.

ARKANSAS: Cotton progress good though frequent showers produced large plants and retarded fruiting, but still time for improvement with hot, dry weather prevailing, first bale marketed last week.

LOUISIANA: Cotton progress and condition good to very good, opening entire State, picking beginning slowly south, local unimportant shedding, weather moderately favorable for weevil activity.

MISSISSIPPI: Cotton good to very good condition, making good progress, local unimportant shedding, weather moderately favorable for weevil activity, early opening many sections, some rank growth upper Delta.

TENNESSEE: Cotton progress and condition good.

ALABAMA: Cotton progress and condition good, some slow progress picking middle and south, weather favorable, fairly active picking begun south.

SOUTH CAROLINA: Cotton progress good, but rank growth some wet places, fairly active picking locally south, first bale ginned July 30, beginning to open central, blooming bolls north, weather moderately favorable for weevil activity but damage relatively light so far.

NORTH CAROLINA: Cotton good or better progress and condition; weather moderately favorable for weevil activity.

ARIZONA: Cotton coming along nicely, some early picking anticipated by end of month.

CALIFORNIA: In San Joaquin Valley cotton planted late or on alkali soil comprising about 1/8 total looks poor, remainder good, set heavy, dusting for insect control general.

MISSOURI: Chopping cotton nearly completed extreme southeast, bolls about ready to open.

NEW MEXICO: Cotton good advance and condition.

BOLL WEEVIL

TEXAS: Cotton is being harvested throughout most of the southern half of the State and is maturing in many fields as far north as the Oklahoma line. Some fields in the northwestern part of the State are also beginning to show maturity. Boll weevils are leaving mature cotton fields to enter fruiting fields and control measures are needed in many fields especially in rank growing cotton. The average infestation in 433 fields in 30 counties was 22% punctured squares as compared to 21% the past week. No punctured squares were found in 53 of the fields examined. In 264 fields the infestation ranged up to 25%; in 64 fields from 26 to 50%; and in 52 fields more than 50% of the squares were punctured. Cotton that is still fruiting should be inspected frequently to determine whether insects are present in sufficient numbers to justify control measures.

OKLAHOMA: Mild temperatures and rains were favorable for weevil development and cotton growth. The boll weevil infestation has greatly increased in the eastern part of the State during the past two weeks and in many fields practically all of the squares are punctured or have been damaged by bollworms. Insecticides are being applied with good results. The average infestation in 119 fields in 17 counties was 34%. No punctured squares were found in 10 fields in the central and western part of the State. In 53 fields the infestation ranged up to 25%; in 15 fields from 26 to 50%; and in 41 fields more than 50% of the squares were punctured.

LOUISIANA: Most of the cotton in the south central portion of the State is mature and beyond the stage of being attractive to insects. The crop in the northeastern sections is maturing rapidly but considerable poisoning was done during the week for boll protection. Some poisoning will be continued in fields of youngest cotton and in fields where plenty of moisture is present. The average infestation in 106 fields in 6 parishes was 32% punctured squares as compared with 21% last week and 20% two weeks ago and with 15% in 1947 and 73% in 1946. In 46 fields the infestation ranged up to 25%; in 43 fields from 26 to 50%; and in 17 fields more than 50% of the squares were punctured.

ARKANSAS: Mild temperatures in general over the State were favorable for cotton insects. The average boll weevil infestation in 90 fields in 6 southeastern counties was 23% punctured squares as compared with 16% last week and 8% two weeks ago and with 22% in 1947 and 41% in 1946. No punctured squares were found in 17 of the fields examined. In 42 fields the infestation ranged up to 25%; in 16 fields from 26 to 50%; and in 15 fields more than 50% of the squares were punctured. The average infestation in 52 fields in Miller, Hempstead, and Clark Counties in southwestern part of the State was 47% punctured squares. In 17 fields the infestation ranged up to 25%; in 10 fields from 26 to 50%; and in 25 fields more than 50% of the squares were punctured.

MISSISSIPPI: "Boll weevil migration is now in progress in most of the State. Some sections in the northern Delta are not yet affected but elsewhere weevils are generally prevalent and some fields which have not previously had weevils are heavily infested this week. Examinations on 483 farms in 40 counties showed 350 infested with an average of 27% which compares with 21% last week and 23% a year ago. Ginning has already begun in several southern counties but most cotton in the Delta and the northern hill section as well as younger cotton in the southern part is still in danger of insect damage. This is the most critical time of the season and cotton fields should be examined frequently and insecticides applied promptly when insects are found in sufficient numbers to justify control." (Clay Lyle, August 9)

Boll weevils are now spreading rapidly in the Delta as 65% of the fields examined the past week had punctured squares as compared to 53%, 48%, 42% and 36% during the four previous weeks. This is the greatest increase in any week this season. Of the 483 fields examined by entomologists 329 were in 19 Delta Counties. There was only a slight increase in weevil infestation. The average infestation in the 214 infested fields was 25% punctured squares as compared to 21% the past week. No punctured squares were found in 115 of the fields examined. In 131 fields the infestation ranged up to 25%; in 53 fields from 26 to 50%; and in 30 fields more than 50% of the squares were punctured. B. J. Young, Delta and Pine Land Co. in the southern part of Bolivar County, reported boll weevils in 520 of the 528 fields examined. The average infestation in the infested fields was 11% punctured squares. Only 6 fields had more than 50% of the squares punctured.

GEORGIA: General rains occurred over most of the State. Hot, dry weather is needed in the Coastal Plain area to open mature bolls. Most of the cotton in the southern counties is now open but picking has been delayed by wet weather. Most of the Piedmont areas have not reached the peak of fruiting but weevil infestation remains low. In 22 fields examined in 8 northeast Piedmont counties, less than 10% of the squares were punctured. In 9 fields the infestation ranged from 11 to 25%. In 17 fields examined in 4 north central Piedmont counties 14 fields had less than 10% punctured squares. In 22 fields examined in 6 northwest Piedmont counties the infestation ranged from 26 to 50% in 10 of the fields and in 3 fields more than 50% of the squares were punctured. All cotton in the Piedmont area should be examined frequently to determine whether insects are present in sufficient numbers to warrant control measures.

SOUTH CAROLINA: Rains and mild temperatures throughout the State were favorable for weevil development and cotton growth in some areas. In the Coastal Plains and Sandhill areas most all of the cotton is mature and beyond the stage of being attractive to insects. Some picking has started in the lower counties. Boll weevils are still moving from field to field but not in large numbers. Near the Pee Dee Experiment Station 32 weevils were collected from a screen trap as compared to 47 last week. The average boll weevil infestation in 76 fields in 20 counties was 73% as compared with 70% last week. In 19 fields the infestation ranged from 26 to 50% and in 57 fields more than 50% of the squares were punctured.

NORTH CAROLINA: General heavy rains and mild temperatures have been favorable for weevil development and the infestation has greatly increased throughout the State, particularly in Scotland, Robeson, Hoke, Sampson, and Cumberland Counties. Weevil migration has begun in the southern counties. Punctured squares were found in all of the 88 fields examined in 17 counties. In 39 fields the infestation ranged up to 25%; in 21 fields from 26 to 50%; and in 28 fields more than 50% of the squares were punctured.

COTTON FLEAHOPPER, TARNISHED PLANT BUG,
RAPID PLANT BUG, AND OTHER MIRIDAE

TEXAS: Cotton fleahopper infestations continue low. The average infestation in 459 fields in 36 counties was 10 fleahoppers per 100 terminals as compared with 7 last week. In only 9 fields in Fisher, Taylor, and Rockwall Counties were more than 50 cotton fleahoppers found per 100 terminals.

OKLAHOMA: No reports of cotton fleahopper damage were received. The average infestation in 119 fields in 17 counties was 5 fleahoppers per 100 terminals. Only 1 field in Cotton County had more than 50 hoppers per 100 terminals.

MISSISSIPPI: The cotton fleahopper was found in only 1 field in Coahoma County. There was a population of 31 adults and nymphs per 100 sweeps in this field. In the examination of 329 fields in the Delta, tarnished plant bugs were reported in 31 fields, rapid plant bugs were reported in 61 fields, and another mirid Neurocolpus nubilis was reported in 41 fields.

NORTH CAROLINA: "Cotton fleahoppers were observed in most fields, though no serious damage has been caused by these insects. The heaviest infestations were observed in Harnett and Halifax Counties." (James T. Conner, Jr., Aug. 7)

MISSOURI: Joe H. Scott, County Extension Agent, reported on August 2: "Approximately 4000 acres of cotton has been dusted for cotton fleahopper control in Dunklin County. Tarnished plant bugs have been noted in cotton but not in sufficient numbers to cause damage."

BOLLWORM

TEXAS: Bollworms are still numerous enough in many fields in the northern part of the State to cause serious damage and control measures are needed. The examination of 12,900 terminals in 45 fields in McLennan and Falls Counties averaged 8.7 bollworm eggs and 1.4 larvae per 100 terminals. Infestations are extremely heavy, especially in rank growing cotton.

LOUISIANA: No serious bollworm infestations were reported.

ARKANSAS: Bollworms were present in 13 of the 90 fields examined in 6 southeastern counties. They were present in 1 field in damaging numbers. Bollworms were also noted in 10 of the 52 fields examined for boll weevils. in 3 southwestern counties. The worms ranged from 1 to 5 per 300 squares.

MISSISSIPPI: Bollworm damage was reported in only 5 of the 329 fields examined in the Delta.

GEORGIA: Bollworms have not appeared in damaging numbers.

SOUTH CAROLINA: Very few bollworms have been found.

NORTH CAROLINA: "Lepidopterous larvae (probably bollworm) are on the increase throughout the cotton growing areas. Heaviest infestation was in Johnston County and in the northern counties." (James T. Conner, Jr., Aug. 7)

COTTON LEAFWORM

TEXAS: No additional counties were reported infested with cotton leafworms during the week. They have been previously reported from 8 counties.

FLORIDA: A light infestation of cotton leafworm was reported in 1 field of cotton in Lake County near Leesburg, August 5. They have been previously reported from Marion and Alachua Counties.

MISCELLANEOUS INSECTS

TEXAS: Grasshoppers are still numerous and doing damage in some areas.

MISSISSIPPI: Cotton aphids were reported in 70 of the 329 fields examined in the Delta.

GEORGIA: Some damage was reported in the southern Coastal Plain area from the fall armyworm.

SOUTH CAROLINA: Infestations of aphids and red spiders have been reported in a few fields but they were not present in damaging numbers.

NORTH CAROLINA: "Light to serious red spider infestation was observed in many scattered fields of the cotton belt, but the more heavily infested fields were found in Nash, Wayne, Cumberland, Sampson, Pitt, and Johnston Counties."
(James T. Conner, Jr., Aug. 7)

INSECTS ON IRRIGATED COTTON OF THE SOUTHWEST

ARIZONA: The mirid and pentatomid insect populations remained about the same as the previous week throughout the Salt River Valley. A slight increase in bollworms was noted. Some of the heavier bollworm infested cotton fields have been dusted or sprayed with good results. The injurious hemipterous insect populations are very low in the Santa Cruz Valley as a result of the extensive dusting program now underway for bollworm control in the Marana, Sahuarita and Continental areas. Aphids are now a serious threat in the Marana area. Red spider-mites are also present in most fields in this area. Sweepings made throughout the Salt River Valley show the injurious hemipterous insect populations to be generally increasing and range from 6 to 21 injurious insects per 100 strokes. Dusting is becoming general in this area. ~~xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx~~
~~xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx~~. The injurious hemipterous insect populations are increasing in the Wilcox area.

NEW MEXICO: Sweepings in Chaves County show counts of injurious insects ranging from 0 to 38 per 100 net strokes. Lygus populations continue to build up in cotton fields not recently dusted. Injurious insect populations remain low in Eddy County.

TEXAS: Injurious hemipterous insect populations remained about the same as the previous week in the El Paso Valley. The lack of increase in populations was no doubt due to the extensive dusting program in the Valley. Sweepings made in 77 fields in El Paso and Hudspeth Counties ranged from 0 to 31 injurious hemipterous insects per 100 net strokes.

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